

Remember 'Nipmuck Country' and Millbury's 175th Birthday

175th Anniversary Schedule of Events

June 11—Block Party, center of town.
June 12—Parade, Martin Street, 12:30 p.m.; Firemen's Munster, Memorial High School, 1 p.m.
June 18—Worcester Symphony Orchestra, Windle Field, 8 p.m.; Fireworks, 10 p.m.
June 19—Millbury 175 Criterium Bicycle Race, center of town, six races, 1-6 p.m.
June 24—Period Ball (semiformal and period dress), Sheraton Lincoln, Worcester, \$60.
June 25—Youth Field Events (Millbury youths only), Millbury High School
June 29-July 4—Fireworks
July 3—Parade, starts at Martin Street, continues to Grove, Water and Elm; ends at Sentry Market, 1 p.m.

By BRIAN ROSSETTI
Tribune Staff Writer

MILLBURY — Throughout the month of June and into July, the Town of Millbury will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary, starting with a block party in the center of town on June 11, and ending with fireworks on July 4.

How did Millbury come to be?

Like most of America, the area which came to be known as Millbury, was originally settled by the Indians — in Millbury's case it was the Nipmuck Indians.

The Nipmucks, whose name roughly translates to "Fresh water fishing place," came into possession of firearms in the early 1640s, making the colonists fearful of an uprising.

In 1675, King Philip's War broke out with bloodshed on both sides, including the torching of several Mendon homes.

In July 1676, the Nipmucks surrendered and the war which jeopardized the existence of the Colony was ended.

After the war, colonists gradually moved back to the disputed area. On May 15, 1704, the white men of the area bought the land from the Indian, John Wampus, and on June 21, 1715, the Town of Sutton was incorporated.

At first only a few families settled the area, but by 1741 the town had grown so much that the old meeting-house could not seat all the people who wanted to attend the services.

Hence, a movement began to construct a meeting-house in the northern part of town, and in 1742 the first petition requesting a separate precinct in the northern part of town was submitted.

The proposal was rejected by the town, as were several ensuing petitions of a similar nature. Finally, the northerners decided to appeal to the General Court to be set off as a precinct by special enactment.

Despite opposition from the town, in February 1743, the General Court ruled in favor of the petitioners, and on October 28, 1743, an order was passed establishing the new precinct, according to a line drawn three miles south and parallel to the northerly line of the town.

For a while, the northerners were satisfied, but by the early 1770s new petitions were being submitted, this time to request having some Town Meetings in the Second Parish of (please turn to page 8)

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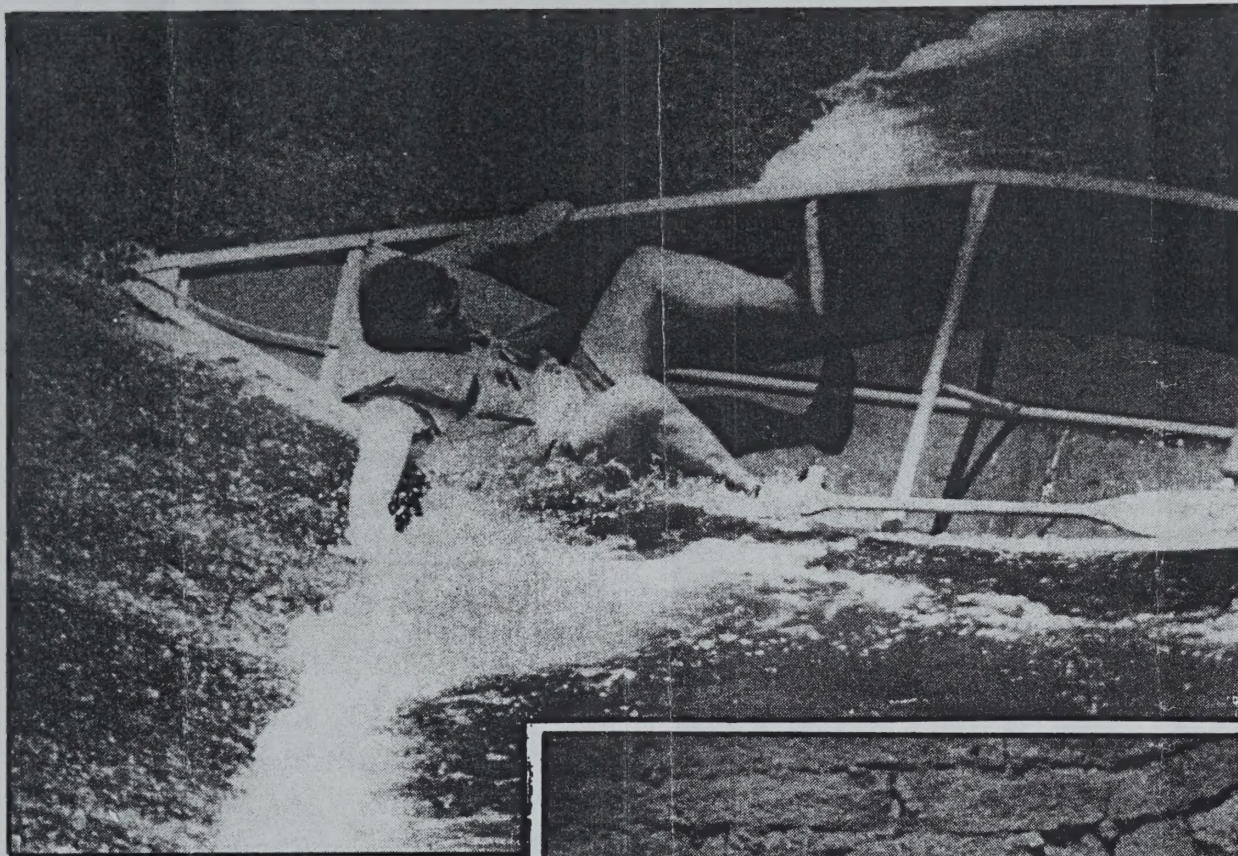
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Dr. Michael A. Polseno

GOOD NEWS

If you presently have Blue Shield, now you are automatically covered for chiropractic services on the anniversary date of your company's policy renewal.

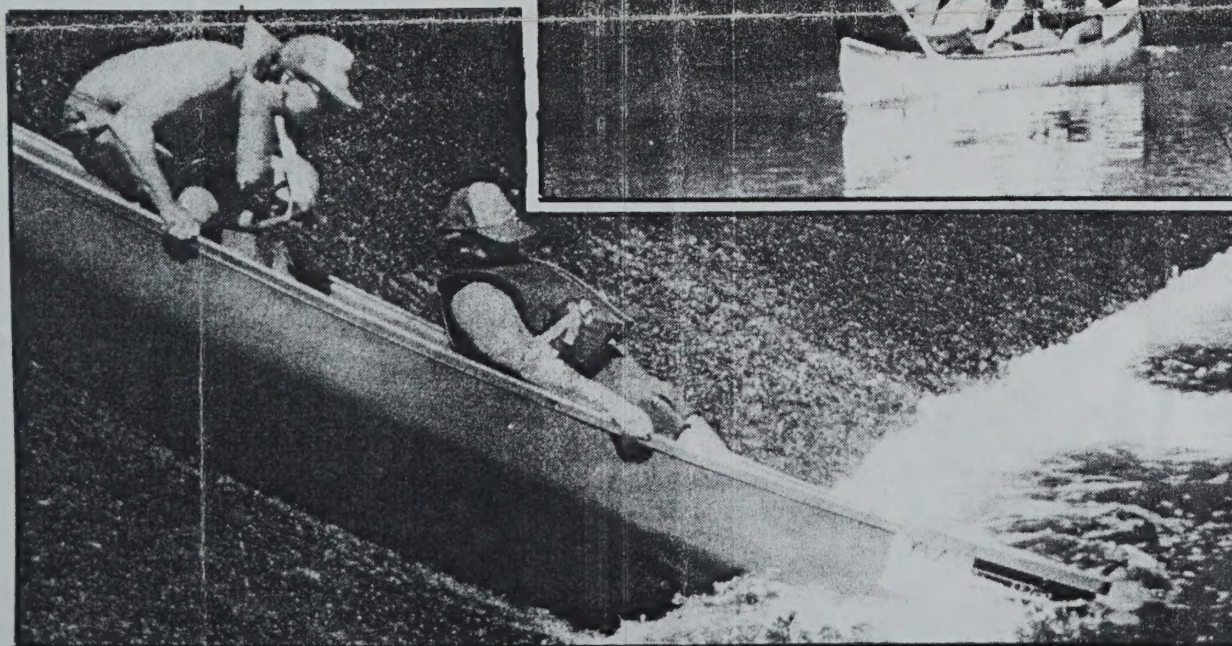
Most health plans provide chiropractic coverage.



Down the 'ol mill stream

Out-of-state contestant Marc Dugas, above, and Bill Macuga of Uxbridge and Larry Smith of Bellingham, below, battle the rapids in last Saturday's 12th Annual Blackstone River Watershed Association Canoe Race from Rockdale to Uxbridge. People of all ages and canoe-racing accomplishments took part.

Photos by Jim LeClaire



—175th

(continued from page 3)

Precinct 2, to cut down on travel by the northern dwellers.

This petition, and future petitions were rejected. However, by 1775 the petitions were curtailed, as the two precincts united to fight the British during the Revolutionary War. (See future issues for Millbury's involvement in the Revolution).

Concern grew as the area's resources became scarce, but all were relieved when General Washington captured General Cornwallis's British Army at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, all but finalizing America's quest for independence.

In the early 1790s, the dissension which existed between the two precincts of Sutton before the Revolution, was renewed. On February 9, 1797, the people of the northern Second Parish formally demanded \$800 from the southern First Parish as their portion of the ministry money.

The demand was rejected, and on November 5, 1798, the North Parish requested to be incorporated into a separate town, only to be denied again.

In the following years, the North Parish made further requests for incorporation and for money from the First Parish. All were rejected, although the First Parish did concede to hold some Town Meetings in the Second Parish.

Still displeased, on January 13, 1813, the people of the North Parish petitioned the General Court for an act of incorporation, and were opposed by the South Parish. This time the North Parish was granted its wish, and on July 1, 1813 at 1 p.m., Millbury's first Town Meeting was held in the Congressional Meeting-house.

For a more detailed account of the aforementioned events, consult the source of this article, "History of the Town of Millbury Massachusetts," at the Millbury Public Library.

Weight-a-thon fundraiser starts soon

WHITINSVILLE — Heavenly Bodies, Slender You, For Women Only and other area fitness facilities are among those taking part in a Weight-a-Thon fundraising event to collect monies for the Fitchburg Center for Brain-Injured Children. The event will begin May 23 and run through June 27th. Those who support the effort can pledge any amount they like, according to Viola Dufore.

